

AMENDED CLAIMS

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original claim 1 amended, remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

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1. A contact element for making an electric contact to a contact member (5, 15, 19, 41) for enabling an electric current to flow between said contact element and said contact member, said contact element (3, 14, 20, 32, 42) comprising a body (6) having at least a contact surface (2, 4, 16, 21, 22, 24, 30, 34, 43, 44) thereof coated with a contact layer arranged to be applied against said contact member, which contact layer comprises a film comprising a multielement material, **characterised in** that said multielement material comprises material with equal composition as at least one of a carbide or nitride that is described as $M_{nH}AX_n$ where M is a transition metal or a combination of a transition metals, n is 1, 2, 3 or higher, A is a group A element or a combination of a group A element, and X is Carbon, Nitrogen or both, said multielement material also comprise at least one nanocomposite comprising single elements, binary phases, ternary phases, quaternary phases or higher order phases based on the atomic elements in the corresponding $M_{nH}AX_n$ compound.
2. A contact element according to claim 1, **characterised in** that said nanocomposite comprise at least two of the following phases: M-A, A-X, M-A-X, X, M-X, or a combination of said materials.
3. A contact element according to any of claim 1 or 2, **characterised in** that said nanocomposite comprise at least one of the following of M-X and M-A-X nanocrystals (C, D, E) and at least one of the following amorphous regions (J, K, L) with M, A, X elements in one or several phases, such as M-A, A-X, M-A-X, or X.
4. A contact element according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised in** that said transition metal is Titan; Ti, n is 1, 2, 3 or higher, X is C; Carbon and A is at least one of Silicon; Si, Germanium; Ge or Tin; Sn or a combination of said atomic elements.